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WVU Medicine and HealthNet Aeromedical Services Announce Expansion of Critical Care Transport Services into West Virginia’s Northern Panhandle

WVU Medicine and HealthNet Aeromedical Services announced today that HealthNet Aeromedical Services will bring critical care air medical services to Marshall County, West Virginia. The new base will be in full operation later this year.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services will operate its tenth helicopter base from a location near Moundsville, West Virginia. The aircraft and the flight crew members will serve citizens and visitors of the northern panhandle region and well beyond.

The aircraft assigned at HealthNet Aeromedical Services’ Base 10 will be a twin-engine, Airbus Helicopters EC-135 P2+ model. The aircraft will be equipped for single-pilot instrument flight capabilities with a suite of aviation equipment that exceeds national standards.

Medical flight crews will be afforded complete head-to-toe access to the patient. The team will have blood and plasma available on every flight and will have the latest in critical care transport technology at-the-ready.

Clinton Burley, HealthNet Aeromedical Services President and CEO, said the transport program looks forward to opening the new base. “HealthNet Aeromedical Services is proud to become the primary provider of critical care air transport services in the northern panhandle region. Our team members are excited to soon have the opportunity to be present there also. The investment by WVU Medicine to bring this multi-million-dollar operation to the region reflects their tremendous commitment to providing the finest healthcare services available to the communities they serve,” Burley said.

"We have enjoyed a decades-long partnership with HealthNet, and we are so thrilled to be able to bring this critical service to the Northern Panhandle," Albert Wright, president and CEO of West Virginia University Health System, said. "Our state’s wild and wonderful terrain, while beautiful, makes ambulance travel difficult. This new HealthNet base will help get patients to Morgantown faster, so they can receive the life-saving care they need."

HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc. is headquartered in Charleston, West Virginia, and is a not-for-profit critical care transport system operated cooperatively by WVU Medicine, Charleston Area Medical Center, and Cabell Huntington Hospital. Formed in 1986, HealthNet Aeromedical Services has safely transported over 75,000 patients.

Reynolds Memorial Hospital

WVU Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital is a non-profit, acute care community hospital located in Glen Dale, West Virginia. The organization is governed by a 20-member volunteer board of directors and licensed for 70 acute beds and a 20-bed Skilled Nursing Unit. RMH is the newest member of WVU Medicine, the state's largest integrated health delivery network.

WVU Medicine

WVU Medicine unites the physicians and scientists of the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center with the hospitals, clinics, and health professionals of the West Virginia University Health System. Together, they are a national leader in patient safety and quality, and are unified and driven by an unbridled passion to provide the most advanced healthcare possible to the people of West Virginia and beyond. WVU Medicine includes the physicians, specialists, and sub-specialists of the West Virginia University School of Medicine; the affiliated schools of the WVU Health Sciences Center; four community hospitals; three critical access hospitals; and a children's hospital, all anchored by a 645-bed academic medical center that offers tertiary and quaternary care.

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About WVU Medicine

• West Virginia's largest private employer
• Includes eight member hospitals, three institutes, and two affiliates
• More than 1,000 active medical staff and 15,000 employees
• Ranked by Vizient as the #6 academic medical center in the country

About HealthNet Aeromedical Services

• Founded in 1986
• 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization owned by Academic Medical Centers
• Nine base locations in W.Va., Ky. and Ohio
• Nationally accredited

About The EC-135

• Twin engine safety
• Dual hydraulic system
• Safe, low-noise fenestron
• High main rotor system clearance (11 ft.)
• Glass cockpit
• Energy absorbing structure
• Obstruction-free flat floor for easy patient loading
• Two patient capability
• Large patient loading area
• Full body patient care access for improved care

Safety Technology

• Terrain avoidance warning system
• Air traffic collision avoidance system
• Cabin mounted wire cutters
• On-board weather radar
• Instrument flight capabilities

Most Importantly...

After 30 years and more than 75,000 patient flights. Operational safety remains our top priority.
About The EC-135 Aircraft

- High Main Rotor System
- On-Board Weather Radar
- Two Patient Loading Capability
- Flat Floor for Easy Patient Loading and Full Body Patient Access
- Twin Engine Safety
- High, Safe Tail Rotor
- High, Safe Tail Rotor System